Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons

2001-2002 Annual Report

December 2002

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The Honourable John T. Nilson, Q.C.
Minister Responsible for Seniors
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Nilson:

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons is pleased to present our Annual Report for the fiscal year 2001-02 for your consideration.

In accordance with the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons' Terms of Reference, this report covers activities for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002. It also includes sections on the Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons, committee membership, a summary of expenditures and proposed priority areas for the 2002-03 year.

The Committee's vision statement encourages all segments of society to work together to "protect and promote the health, dignity, and well-being of all older persons in Saskatchewan." With your reappointment as Minister Responsible for Seniors, we look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve this vision and to make Saskatchewan a leader in working with and for older adults.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our fellow citizens through the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons.

Respectfully,

Donald A. King

Dr. Donald A. King
Chairperson
Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons

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INTRODUCTION

In 1999, Canada, along with countries around the world, recognized the International Year of Older Persons. On October 1, 1998, the Minister Responsible for Seniors appointed a thirteen-member committee made up of older persons to promote and facilitate community-based participation, and to advise the Minister on provincial activities. In fulfilment of its final task, the committee presented the Minister with a report that recommended a Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons be established to provide input on program and policy development and feedback on health needs and status of older persons. This committee would also assist in educating the public on the benefits of healthy aging.

The Government of Saskatchewan responded to the report's recommendation by appointing a Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons in June 2000. The following conveys the composition and activities of the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons for April 2001 to March 2002.

PURPOSE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons, which reports directly to the Minister Responsible for Seniors, makes recommendations on issues related to older persons in Saskatchewan. The specific mandate of the Committee is to:

- represent, as individuals, the views of older persons;
- share information on issues and practices relating to older persons;
- identify options to better serve these persons;
- review and prioritize issues and specific provincial actions to be undertaken; and
- to provide on-going information to the Minister Responsible for Seniors.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

There are currently thirteen members on the Committee. Committee membership is made by Ministerial Appointment and includes individuals who collectively bring various perspectives to the table: provincial, Aboriginal, women's, regional, health, education and research. Members represent a broad range of geographic areas and perspectives from across the province. Many are also members of external stakeholder groups, senior organizations and cultural groups. Even though members act as individuals, rather than as representatives of these groups, the external contacts serve to broaden and enrich the perspectives and experience brought to the committee.

The Minister Responsible for Seniors appointed Don King as Chairperson and Wes Ashwin as Vice-Chairperson. The original Committee members are eligible to be re-appointed for an additional two-year term. During the 2001-02 year, the Minister re-appointed six of the original Committee members for an additional two-year term.

The Committee meets on an as-needed basis either in person or by conference call.

A complete listing of members and biographies can be found in Appendix I of this report.

In 2001-02, the Committee worked for a period of time with the Women's Secretariat, during a time of government reorganization, until responsibility for the seniors' portfolio was returned to the Department of Health.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2001-02

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons continued working towards the development of the *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons* which will identify needs and concerns of Saskatchewan seniors and recommend ways to address them. The Committee recommended to the Minister Responsible for Seniors that a provincial 'Seniors Week' be held the first week of October on an annual basis. The premiere 'Seniors Week' was launched at the Saskatoon Council on Aging 2001 trade fair. The Committee also reaffirmed its commitment to the following vision statement and guiding principles.

Vision Statement

This vision statement articulates what the Committee wants for older persons in Saskatchewan. It is a statement of what the Government of Saskatchewan and society should be working toward.

"To protect and promote the health, dignity, and well-being of all older persons in Saskatchewan."

Principles

The principles will guide the actions by which the vision will be achieved. They reflect the core values of older persons and are inherent in the vision statement.

1.0 Dignity – being treated with respect regardless of the situation and having a sense of self-esteem.

2.0 Independence/Self-Determination – being in control of one's life, being able to do as much for oneself as possible and making one's own choices.

3.0 Participation – remaining integrated in society, getting involved, staying active and taking part in the community. Being consulted and having one's views considered by governments.

4.0 Fairness – having one's real needs, in all their diversity, considered equally to those of other people regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability, economic or other status.

5.0 Safety and Security – having adequate income as one ages and having access to a safe and supportive living environment, including freedom from fear and exploitation.

6.0 Self-Fulfilment – being able to pursue opportunities for the full development of one's potential with access to the educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources of society.

7.0 Recognition – achieving intergenerational recognition and respect for contributions of older persons.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2002-03 (WORKPLAN)

The Committee will continue its work on the *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons*. In particular, the focus will be on the refinement of the recommendations and consultation with stakeholder groups. The Committee plans to finalize the *Provincial Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons* in 2003. In addition, the PACOP will seek to identify any new critical challenges facing Saskatchewan seniors.

Appendix I
Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons Membership List

Council members for the term 2001-02 were as follows:

Don King, Chairperson (Regina) – Dr. King is the retired Director of the Seniors' Education Centre, University Extension, University of Regina. A former Winnipeg resident, Dr. King has been an educator for 35 years in Regina at Luther College and the University of Regina. He has presented papers at national and international conferences on older adult issues and has been invited to participate in several face-to-face and computer mediated national forums.

Wes Ashwin, Vice-Chairperson (Saskatoon) – Mr. Ashwin was the Chairperson of the Provincial Advisory Committee, International Year of Older Persons (1999), and was also the Saskatchewan representative on the Canada Coordinating Committee – International Year of Older Persons (1999). He is an ordained United Church Minister and a retired employee of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Marg Beament (La Ronge) – Mrs. Beament has been involved with the development of Northern Saskatchewan since 1973. She has worked with such organizations as Northern Native Women, Northern Municipal Council, NorSask Native Outreach, and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band Health Services as a Community Health Representative and Home Care Coordinator.

Frank Bellamy (Regina) – A retired teacher and administrator, Dr. Bellamy is a past president of the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and a current member of the Seniors Advisory Committee to the Active Living Coalition of Older Adults (ALCOA) and the committee on diabetes and activity for seniors. He has volunteered with such groups as the Alzheimer Association of Saskatchewan, Regina Alzheimer Society, Selo Seniors Community Centre, City of Regina, the Regina Senior Citizens Centre Inc. and the Seniors' Education Centre, University of Regina.

Margaret Cline (Zelma) – Mrs. Cline came to Canada as a war bride and has been active in her community ever since. Currently a member of the Young-Zelma Legion and the Saskatchewan War Brides' Association, she has also served as a member of the Zelma United Church Women and nationally and provincially with the Saskatchewan Women's Institute, including a two-year term as president. She was also a member of the Saskatchewan Women's Agricultural Network (SWAN).

Helen "Bubs" Coleman (Saskatoon) – Mrs. Coleman was appointed as a member of the National Advisory Council on Aging in May 1999. She currently volunteers for the Saskatoon Council on Aging and in the marketing department of Wanuskewin Heritage Park. She retired in 1994 as the Communications Coordinator for the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon.

Lucie de Montarnal (Debden) – A retired teacher, Mrs. de Montarnal is a past president of the Golden Age Club. In addition to the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons, she currently sits on the Fédération des Aînés Fransaskois.

Patricia Hutchison (Regina) – Dr. Hutchison is a member of the Seniors' Education Centre/Seniors' University Group where she attends classes and has served on the board and executive. Presently she serves on the Fifty Plus Advisory Committee of the Regina Health District Public Health Services. During her professional career, she practised for a time as a pediatrician. She joined the Regina Health Department in 1962 and from 1983 until retirement in 1992, she was Medical Health Officer for Regina. She was a coroner for the Province of Saskatchewan in the mid-1990s.

Edward Leson (Prince Albert) – A retired teacher and past member of the Prince Albert Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee, Mr. Leson has also served as a Councillor with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and as President of the Prince Albert Teachers' Association.

Frank J. Mirasty (Meadow Lake) – Mr. Mirasty is a former Chief of the Flying Dust First Nation, a position he held for eight years. Besides his involvement with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council in drafting the Education Act and as the Director of Self-Government, Mr. Mirasty is also known as a translator—he reads and writes in both Cree and English. He is also currently working with the Justice Committee in Alternative Justice and the Police Mangement Board.

Doreen Mowers (Moose Jaw) – Mrs. Mowers was instrumental in the development of the Citizens All Association, where she worked as a councillor for 19 years. Aside from her work as a free-lance journalist, Ms Mowers has a Bachelor of Social Work and is trained as a psychiatric nurse. She also recently completed a four-year lay ministry course sponsored by the Anglican Church of Canada.

Jean Nahachewsky (Saskatoon) – Mrs. Nahachewsky is the past president of the Saskatoon Council on Aging, where she currently serves on the finance/fundraising committee. She is actively engaged in the organization and representation of "Spotlight on Seniors," an education and trade show held the last three years. For many years she was also the Coordinator of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Resource Centre in Saskatoon.

Trevor Quinn (Regina) – A retired pharmacist and former Director of the Formulary and Education Division for the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan, Mr. Quinn has been active in a variety of heritage-related organizations such as the Regina Plains Museum and the Saskatchewan Pharmacy Museum Society. An active Kiwanian, his community activities include membership on the Finance Committee of the Regina Early Learning Centre and the editorial board of the Saskatchewan Senior Mechanism's publication, "Gray Matters."

Appendix II
Summary of Expenditures for 2001-02

	2001-02
Honorarium	$ 3,875
Other Costs (e.g. travel/sustenance/meetings)	7,937
Total Expenses	$11,812